WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for mapping captured multimedia information onto emoticons for insertion into a communication using an Instant Messaging (IM) application, wherein the insertion is based on multimedia information, the system comprising:

an information capture module for capturing the multimedia information in the vicinity of a machine on which the user is using the IM application;

an information extraction and interpretation module communicatively coupled with the information capture module, for extracting relevant information from the captured multimedia information and interpreting it; and

a mapping module communicatively coupled with the information extraction and interpretation module, for mapping the interpreted information onto an emoticon.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the multimedia information comprises at least one of audio information, still image information, and video information.

3. The system of claim 1, further comprising:

an Application Program Interface module for the IM application, communicatively coupled to the mapping module, for inserting the emoticon into the communication using the IM application.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the emoticon is predefined by the IM application.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein the emoticon is predefined by a third-party application.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein the emoticon is created by the user.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein the emoticon is created by the user by processing captured multimedia information.

8. A method for mapping captured multimedia information onto emoticons for insertion into a communication using an Instant Messaging (IM) application, wherein the insertion is based on multimedia information, the method comprising:

receiving the captured multimedia information;

interpreting the captured multimedia information; and

mapping the interpreted information onto an emoticon.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the multimedia information comprises at least one of audio information, still image information, and video information.

10. The method of claim 8, further comprising:
inserting the emoticon into the communication using the IM application.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of mapping the interpreted information onto an emoticon comprises:
selecting one emoticon out of a plurality of emoticons predefined in the IM application.

12. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of mapping the interpreted information onto an emoticon comprises:
selecting one emoticon out of a plurality of emoticons predefined in a third-party application.

13. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of mapping the interpreted information onto an emoticon comprises:
selecting one emoticon out of a plurality of customized emoticons created by the user.

14. The method of claim 8, further comprising:
determining whether a trigger has been received;
responsive to the trigger being received, capturing the multimedia information.

15. A method for creating an emoticon for a communication using an IM application, based on captured multimedia information, the method comprising:
receiving the captured multimedia information; and
processing the received captured multimedia information to create an emoticon.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising:
inserting the emoticon into the communication using the IM application.

17. The method of claim 15, further comprising:

storing the emoticon for use in a later IM communication using the application.

18. The method of claim 15, wherein the step of processing the received captured multimedia information to create an emoticon comprises:

reducing the size of the captured multimedia information.

19. The method of claim 15, wherein the step of processing the received captured multimedia information to create an emoticon comprises:

reducing the resolution of the captured multimedia information.

20. The method of claim 15, wherein the step of processing the received captured multimedia information to create an emoticon comprises:

selecting a frame from a plurality of frames of the captured multimedia information.

21. A system for mapping captured multimedia information onto emoticons for insertion into an electronic medium, wherein the insertion is based on multimedia information, the system comprising:

an information capture module for capturing the multimedia information in the vicinity of a machine in communication with the electronic medium;

an information extraction and interpretation module communicatively coupled with the information capture module, for extracting relevant information from the captured multimedia information and interpreting it; and

a mapping module communicatively coupled with the information extraction and interpretation module, for mapping the interpreted information onto an emoticon.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the multimedia information comprises at least one of audio information, still image information, and video information.

23. The system of claim 21, further comprising:

an Application Program Interface module, communicatively coupled to the mapping module, for inserting the emoticon into the electronic medium.

24. A method for mapping captured multimedia information onto emoticons for insertion into an electronic medium, wherein the insertion is based on multimedia information, the method comprising:

receiving the captured multimedia information;

interpreting the captured multimedia information; and

mapping the interpreted information onto an emoticon.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the multimedia information comprises at least one of audio information, still image information, and video information.

26. The method of claim 24, further comprising:

inserting the emoticon into the electronic medium.

27. A system for mapping captured multimedia information onto emoticons for insertion into an electronic communication, wherein the insertion is based on multimedia information, the system comprising:

an information capture module for capturing the multimedia information in the vicinity of a machine the user is using for the electronic communication;

an information extraction and interpretation module communicatively coupled with the information capture module, for extracting relevant information from the captured multimedia information and interpreting it; and

a mapping module communicatively coupled with the information extraction and interpretation module, for mapping the interpreted information onto an emoticon.

28. The system of claim 27, wherein the multimedia information comprises at least one of audio information, still image information, and video information.

29. The system of claim 27, further comprising:

an Application Program Interface module, communicatively coupled to the mapping module, for inserting the emoticon into the electronic communication.